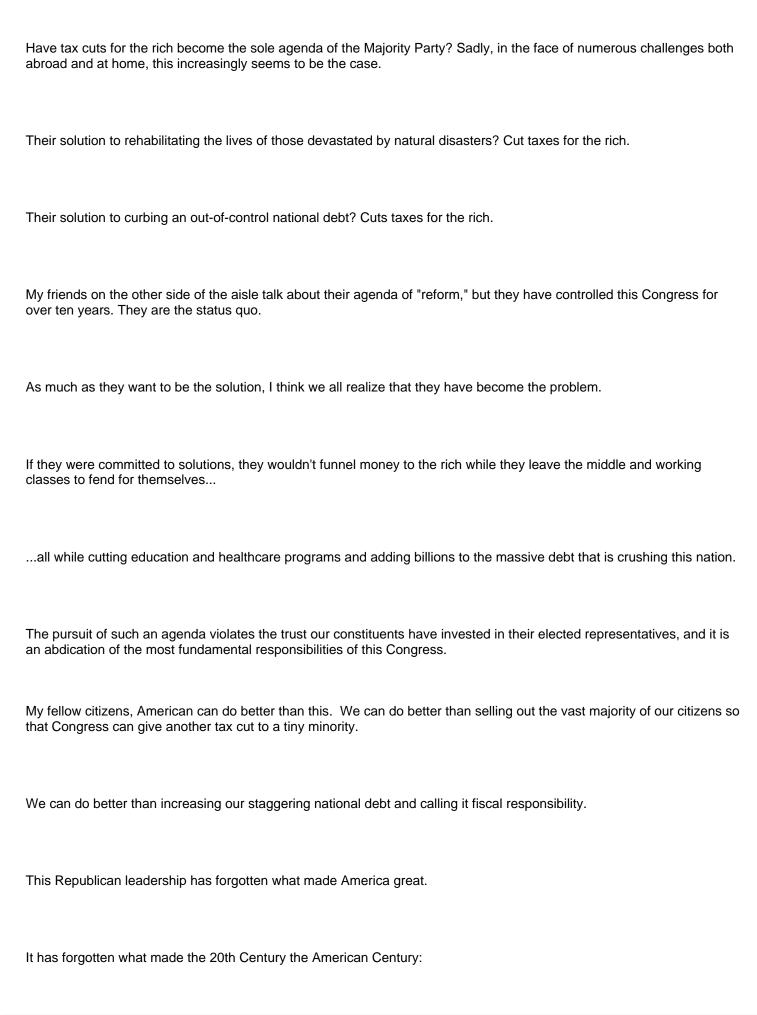
Tax Relief Extension Act- December 8, 2005

Rep. Slaughter leads debate on H.R. 4297, the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliaition Act
December 8, 2005
M. Speaker,
Just two weeks ago, the budget the Majority forced through Congress cut 50 billion dollars from education, healthcare, foster care, child support and a host of other vital programs.
They claimed that they were simply eliminating waste, promoting fiscal responsibility and, most importantly, curbing our national debt
But today, they want us to agree to a tax cut worth 56 billion dollars.
If we take away 50 billion dollars in budget cuts, but we add 56 billion in tax giveawayswe end up with more debt, not less. In fact, we end up adding 6 billion dollars to the largest deficit in our country's history
the one created by this Republican Congress.
If reducing the deficit isn't a priority, what has made the Majority's agenda?
How we control the purse strings in our hands reveals who we work for.

Of the proposed 56 billion dollars in cuts, 50 percent - that's 28 billion dollars - will go to the super rich, those among us who need it the least.
This bill is for them - the men and women among us who earn more than a million dollars a yeara mere fraction of one percent of Americans.
At the same time, the middle class will continue to be squeezed, while workers who make 40,000 dollars a year or less in other words, those who need help the most - will receive just one percent of today's cuts.
Does the Republican Party really think that the American people don't see what is going on here?
What this bill shows us today is that Republicans care about entrenching privilege - the work of a corrupt and inefficient government - all while talking about tough choices and cutting government waste.
But their rhetoric doesn't add up.
If they were serious about making government work better, they would fulfill their responsibility to conduct proper Congressional oversight and ensure that the money we do spend is spent efficiently
they would look for the 9 billion dollars misplaced during the Iraq reconstruction.
Now that's what I call government waste.
But there isn't a court in this country which could find the Republicans guilty of enforcing accountability in government.
Instead, they cut social services for the needy, and then send the savings to the rich.



Investment in the middle class. Investment in our society
Investment in education, in opportunity, and in the future.
It is time for a new direction.
Together, America can do better than what this Republican leadership is proposing here today.
I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill and defeat this rule